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made by Lieut.-Gen. Strachey in 1892. At that time a table was compiled of the ages at election of all fellows admitted between 1848 and 1891. The experience of the Canada Life Assurance Company covers a period of 46 years, recording observations upon 35,287.

The record of the Royal Society is found to be fully as good as that of the Canada Life. It appears that those engaged in scientific pursuits have a longer lease of life than the average. " Brain work is not wearing upon vitality; brain worry is."

In the *Standard*, April 11, 1896, is a table showing the results of life insurance in the United States from the date of the organization of the companies to December 31, 1895. The table includes the insurance of 41 companies.

The gross premiums received since organization has been . .	$2,726,715,898
The gross amount paid policy holders has been	1,827,606,231
The gross assets December 31, 1895, were	1,116,434,143
Payments to policy holders since organization plus present asssets amount to . . . . , .	2,944,040,374
The excess of payments to policy holders plus present assets over premiums received	217,324,476

In *Eyesight and School Life*, by Simeon Snell (Bristol, England: John Wright & Co. 1895. Pp. 70.), is a considerable body of statistics on defective eyesight gathered from various sources. The statistics of Munich, Breslau, St. Petersburg, and other cities, gathered by Drs. Cohn, Erismann, and others, are briefly summarized. Some statistics are also added with regard to myopia in this country.

In the *Sixty-Third Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind*, December, 19, 1895, on page 34, are given statistics with regard to the attendance for the past year. During the year 39 new cases were admitted. Of these, one had a blind uncle, one a blind brother, one a blind grandfather, and one two blind uncles. Among the causes of blindness five are classed as congenital.

ANTHROPOMETRIC STATISTICS OF ITALY.

Anthropometria Militare. By the Ministry of War, under the direction of Dr. Ridolfo Livi. Part I: *Anthropological and Ethnological Data.* Rome, 1896. Pp. 419. Maps and diagrams, xxiii.

This superb piece of work, which has already been referred to in the March number of the *Publications* (p. 38), is the most comprehensive contribution yet made to the anthropological study of the present populations of Europe. Similar work is being done by Dr. Collignon in France, although the government has not definitely undertaken the work, as in this case. The text, the complete table of results, and the maps of the distribution of the stature, color of hair and eyes, and cephalic index, by provinces, and even by communes, reflect the highest credit upon the distinguished author. Statistically the work seems to accord with the highest standards, and in many places, as in the discussion of the interpretation of curves of seriation, the matter of method is peculiarly well treated.

Here are some of the general results of the investigation, neglecting the sociological factors which have been discussed in the above mentioned reference. The population of Italy is of two distinct types. In the north it is predominantly broad-headed (index 86), relatively tall (1.66 meters, while the shortest in the British Isles averages 1.67 meters), and relatively blonde, meaning thereby that about 15 per cent of the eyes and hair are light. In the south, on the other hand, especially in Calabria and Sardinia, the people are generally narrow-headed (average index 75–76), very short of stature (1.63 meters, or about 5 feet 4 inches,— the shortest in Europe), and very dark in complexion. An interesting comparison is made between the distribution of the blonde and brunette *mixed* type and the *pure* types of the same. The figures for the mixed type disregard the combinations of color of hair and eyes in the same person, and are based upon the sum total of hair and eyes of each variety in each district, however combined. In the *pure* type of brunette only those persons are accounted dark who are characterized by pigmentation of both portions of the body. In general, however, the two are parallel. The value of the comparison lies in the fact that Virchow, Schimmer, Kollmann, and Vandekindere have all worked among the Teutons on the basis of the pure type, while Topinard in France, Beddoe in Britain, and others reckon the brunetteness of their several regions by counting in all the dark eyes and hair whether combined in the same individual or not. Each method undoubtedly has its merits; but if they be parallel in results we may combine them to form a general map for all Europe, if only a correct reduction to a common standard can be made.

Dr. Livi has investigated the effects of environment upon physical environment, especially in the determination of the influences of altitude. He finds, for example, the mountaineers are shorter, mainly because their surroundings are less favorable to development (p. 47). The population at considerable altitudes (p. 65) is also lighter in complexion, this being probably also due to social conditions less favorable. Thus, his results accord with our own, expressed at various times, that evidence accumulates to show that the brunette type for some reason is favored by prosperity. In respect of cephalic index, he finds no difference between mountain and plain, attributable to environment, thus contradicting Ranke's famous contention that the Bavarians are original Teutonics, even although they differ radically from them by being broad-headed,— this broad-headedness being but an effect of their extended sojourn at considerable altitudes. In Italy it appears rather that the differences between plain and mountain are merely due to the fact that physical types are more apt to be preserved in purity in isolated places; and, hence, in the south the mountaineer is a clearer type of the Mediterranean dolicho-cephalic race, while in Piedmont he is broader-headed than the people of the plain for the same reason that his broad-headed ancestry is more pure.

Finally, Dr. Livi enters at length into the distribution of other anthropological traits. One of special significance for social students is the unfavorable influence exerted by city life, as indicated by the narrow, weak chests and the stunted stature. Other features, as the nasal index, yield less certain results. This paucity of results from the measurement of facial proportions is also evidenced by Dr. Collignon's latest work on Southwest France. Perhaps it may be that sexual selection, or the existence of local types, upsets the phenomena of race, but at all events research is limiting investigation more and more to a few simple measurements taken on great numbers of people.

This first part of Dr. Livi's work is mainly statistical, consisting principally of remarks upon method, explanation of the tables and the like. It is devoutly to be wished that the succeeding portions of the work, probably to contain the more immediately interesting — though certainly not more valuable — discussion of the bearing of all this evidence on the great problems of the origin, migrations and future of the Italian people may appear in the near future. Meanwhile, this work will stand as a lasting monument to the indefatigable energy and scientific discrimination of the distinguished author.

William Z. Ripley.